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NEWS
WORTH
SHARING.

'Kaylin's still gone'

Manslaughter charge laid more than two years after Kaylin Diggs was killed. PAGE 3



TIGRES FEND OFF MOOSE

Halifax Mooseheads winger Connor Moynihan lands a check on Victoriaville Tigres' Gabriel Gagné during QMJHL action at the Scotiabank Centre on Thursday night. Halifax fell 4-3 in a shootout. For coverage, see page 33. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Weather déjà vu

Forecast. Remember how awesome those flooded streets were? And how great it was when they all froze over?



RUTH DAVENPORT
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If winter-weary Halifax residents are trying to suppress memories of Sunday's snow-rain-flooding-freezing-slipping-falling-cursing-endless-despair fiasco, they're in for a big fat setback.

Environment Canada meteorologists say the same pattern is set to play out again this weekend, starting Sunday when a low-pressure system tracks north of Nova Scotia, sending temperatures up to five or six degrees.

"So everything will be changing over to rain, from what it looks like right now," said Tracey Talbot Thursday. "And behind this, temperatures

will drop again on Monday night ... into Tuesday."

Talbot said it was too soon to know how much rain is coming, but said the sudden rise in temperatures will mean water, water, everywhere regardless of the rainfall. "We're going to have a lot of melting, and then with the cold temperatures coming in behind it, we'll have a lot of freezing again," she said.

A city spokeswoman said the milder conditions in the run-up to Sunday will help prepare for more possible flooding.

"Salt is now activating well and allows us to scrape the streets and sidewalks, so as we've been able to begin widening streets that were narrowed, that's helping us to clear some of those catch basins," said Tiffany Chase.

Chase said the city isn't, at this point, asking homeowners to get out and clear their catch basins, though it certainly won't hurt. "If someone can see one, see that it's blocked and feel they want to assist, we certainly wouldn't turn them away," she said.

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'Amazing news': police lay charges in Diggs slaying

Lengthy investigation.

Cousin of man killed in downtown scuffle says family has suffered for more than two years



RUTH DAVENPORT
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The cousin of a man who died after a fight in downtown Halifax 2-1/2 years ago said he was overwhelmed to learn that someone had been arrested and charged.

"Oh, wow. Wow. This is amazing news," said Quentrel Provo Thursday when Metro told him of the development in Kaylin Diggs' death. "It's not going to bring Kaylin back, but it will help the family out a lot."

Halifax Regional Police found Diggs unconscious near Argyle and Sackville streets around 4 a.m. on Aug. 11, 2012.

On Thursday, police issued a release stating that Devon Marteeke Downey, 23, of Halifax had turned himself in to police headquarters in connection with the crime. He appeared in Halifax provincial court Thursday afternoon, facing a charge of manslaughter.

"We have been looking for this individual since earlier this week," said Const. Pierre Bourdages. "I'm not sure exactly how the word got to him that we had been looking for him, there was no warrant for his arrest, but he decided to turn himself in."

Bourdages said it's believed Downey and Diggs — who didn't know one another — got



Devon Marteeke Downey appears at Halifax provincial court on Thursday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

into an altercation as Diggs was walking along Argyle Street.

"We do believe there was a disturbance, or a fight that happened between these two individuals, and unfortunately Kaylin passed away from his injuries following that altercation," said Bourdages, adding Downey is not known to police.

Although the case was added to the Major Rewards for Unsolved Crimes program, Bourdages said it was not a factor in the investigation.

Bourdages said the force is pleased to be able to bring closure to Diggs' family after more than two years.

Quoted

"This is really good news. Now the family can kind of move on somewhat, but it's hard because Kaylin's still gone." Quentrel Provo, cousin of murder victim Kaylin Diggs

"It was a very long and tedious investigation," said Bourdages. "Investigators followed up with a variety of information."

Provo, who launched an anti-violence movement named Stop the Violence in his cousin's honour, praised police for sticking with the investigation when witnesses to the crime

wouldn't speak up.

He said knowing that Diggs' killer was at large has been hard on the family, and has sometimes made it hard for him to remain motivated in his activism. "When I feel like I don't want to do Stop the Violence movement, I still just think back to that day, that night and that happening, my



Kaylin Diggs CONTRIBUTED

cousin and great friend was killed," he said. "After that, it gives me the motivation to keep doing what I'm doing."

1 NEWS



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FEBRUARY 21



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Readin', writin' and responsibility

Education. New drug and alcohol curriculum aims to help students make the right choices

The province is hoping more students in Nova Scotia will learn to make responsible choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol, with the launch of a new drug education curriculum.

Health Minister Leo Glavine, joined by students and staff from Oxford School in Halifax, announced the new curriculum in the school's teen centre on Thursday.

The curriculum was created in conjunction with the departments of Education and Early Childhood Development and Health and Wellness.

Many junior high students across the province will have access to seven different lesson plans that will encourage them to discuss the different influences and pressures around drinking alcohol and abusing street and prescription drugs, Glavine said.



Health Minister Leo Glavine says the new curriculum will create a safe space for junior high students in Nova Scotia to discuss drinking and substance abuse.
STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

"We are seeing far too many tragic deaths that were a direct result of prescription drugs and other substances," he said Thursday.

He explained plans to de-

sign a new curriculum came in the wake of the results from a 2012 provincial drug survey that revealed more than 50 per cent of the province's teens drank alcohol, more

than 30 per cent smoked marijuana and 12 per cent misused prescription drugs.

On Thursday, Glavine said these new lessons are designed to be "relevant and

engaging for students" to create a safe and non-judgmental environment to talk openly and honestly about substance abuse.

Neve McCormack is in

Staff

So far, Health Minister Leo Glavine said more than 30 teachers and counsellors have attended training sessions.

Grade 8 at Oxford School and piloted the new curriculum last year.

"Everybody was sitting there and we were all included and it was nice to be able to see what other people thought instead of just listening to what the teacher thought. Everybody got to have a say in things," she said Thursday.

Teachers are required to be more facilitators than instructors with this new curriculum, explained Dan O'Leary, a guidance counsellor at a junior high in Lower Sackville. He said that enables staff to better listen and build trust with students.

"Great things happen when you create a safe space and that's just what these lessons do," he said Thursday.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

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Permanent truck-stop for foodies coming to Burnside

Opening soon.

Truck-Side food court launches this spring with street-food fare, and prices to match



HALEY RYAN

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A new food court is set to take locals on a culinary cross-country trip without leaving Burnside.

Halifax restaurant owner and chef Bill Pratt is expanding his reach with Truck-Side Food Truck Food Court, next door to his Habaneros and Cheese Curds location at 600 Windmill Rd.

"Why does quick-service food have to be fast, processed food? I'm trying to go in the other direction and take the little extra time," Pratt said as he walked through the 3,000-square-foot space, picnic tables and construction equipment stacked around the dusty floor.

"Today we ground our own meat for our chorizo sausage, we're drying our own herbs for ... the fresh focaccia bread that's going to be made daily," he said.

Pratt said he'd been eyeing

the space for the past couple of years, and wanted to bring in Burnside's first food court while using local ingredients and keeping meals below \$10.

The three stationary food trucks include U-Pick-Fish Seafood Shack, Gweilo Asian Noodle Bar, and Lil Eatily Pasta Bar, Pratt said, with a connecting door to the Cheese Curds/Habaneros side.

Waving his hand to take in the floor-to-ceiling murals that showed various cities and regions across Canada, Pratt said customers will first notice Halifax's skyline and waterfront, Newfoundland with an iceberg, and the Prince Edward Island ferry grouped behind the tartan-covered seafood truck before moving to Gweilo sitting in front of Montreal's busy Chinatown.

The Lil Eatily booth sits beneath Toronto's Little Italy landmarks, while another wall is taken up by the prairie's rolling fields, buffalo, British Columbia's totem poles and Vancouver's Lionsgate Bridge stretching over the door to land back in Halifax.

The truck frames are mostly finished, and Pratt said after the floor is tiled, equipment brought in and tables put in place, he is hoping to have the first truck open for



Truck-Side owner Bill Pratt leans against one of three new stationary food trucks in his Burnside restaurant on Thursday. HALEY RYAN/METRO

business within the next 30 days and work out any kinks before the others follow.

Pratt said 24 new staff members, including chefs, work at Truck-Side and he is hoping to create a patio this summer to add to the 100-seat area inside with people at communal picnic tables.

"You don't know the guy (beside you), maybe you spark up a conversation. Welcome to the Maritimes — we're friendly down here," he said with a laugh.

Scenes across Canada

Local artist behind eatery's giant murals

Walking into the high-ceilinged Truck-Side Food Truck Food Court, Jake Seibert is hoping people are left a little bit in awe.

The Halifax artist of Talk-

ing Wall Designs is behind the massive floor-to-ceiling murals of Canadian cities, landscapes and icons decorating the food court.

"It's been a marathon," Seibert said as a brown buffalo on the wall peeked around his shoulder.

Painting full-time for so long has been tiring, but it's also interesting how every

day is different, Seibert said.

"It's probably at least six or seven times the size of anything I've ever done," Seibert said, adding he hopes people will be "in awe" when they see the sheer scale of the art.

"Just check it out for awhile just because there's so much in it, and so many bits ... and Easter eggs to kind of take in," he said.

Halifax airport calls 2014 a banner year for air cargo

With more than 32,000 metric tonnes of goods shipped in a single year, the Halifax Stanfield Airport is calling 2014 a "record-setting" year for air cargo.

According to a release issued Thursday, the airport is reporting that air cargo is up by 8.5 per cent compared to 2013.

"A big part of Halifax Stanfield's cargo activity is fresh lobster and seafood exports, and demand is

Asian market

6

Currently six air carriers — Air Canada, Cargojet, FedEx, UPS, Purolator and Korean Air Cargo — transport lobster from the Halifax airport to Asia.

growing," the release reads, saying that in the last five years Canada's live lobster exports to Asia have grown

by 428 per cent.

The Chinese market also remains one of the fastest growing in demand.

Korean Air Cargo in particular transported a large quantity of Nova Scotia seafood to Seoul and South Korea during summer 2014 and began offering weekly flights to South Korea, carrying approximately 40 to 50 tonnes of lobster during the holiday season, which has continued in 2015. METRO

Caroline Rhea returning to the ComedyFest stage

Standup comedian and actress Caroline Rhea is bringing a little bit of magic to the local stage this April.

On Thursday, the Halifax ComedyFest announced the comedian would be returning to the event, which runs from April 22 to 25.

Rhea, well-known for roles in Christmas with the Kranks, The Caroline Rhea Show and The Drew Carey Show, started her television career as Aunt Hilda on the

1990s sitcom Sabrina, the Teenage Witch.

She last performed here at the 2013 festival, and "brings a fresh, smart and spontaneous approach to all her work," according to a release.

Rhea is set to appear during the Gala of Laughs finale on April 25 at the Spatz Theatre in Citadel High alongside Mark Critch, Nikki Payne, Lachlan Patterson and others.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$40. METRO



Caroline Rhea GETTY IMAGES

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Extreme weather. Province offers compensation for December storm damage

People in Nova Scotia who suffered uninsurable losses from heavy rainfall in December can now apply to the provincial government for compensation.

Mark Furey, the minister responsible for the Emergency Management Office, says a disaster financial assistance program will provide basic recovery assistance to homeowners, small business owners and not-for-profit organizations affected by the heavy rains and flooding.

Some eligible expenses include infrastructure damage and replacing or repairing personal property.

The government says the eligible affected areas are Annapolis, Colchester, Cumberland, Digby, Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, Pictou, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties and Halifax Regional Municipality. The deadline for applications is April 30.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Robber flies the coop with KFC cash register

Police in Halifax have a bone to pick with a man they say stole a cash register from a fast-food restaurant in Fairview. Around 9 p.m. Wednesday, officers responded to a robbery at the Kentucky Fried Chicken on Titus Street.

According to a release, a man entered the restaurant and indicated he had a weapon before demanding cash. He then fled the area with the cash register, police said.

The suspect is described as about five-foot-six and was wearing dark clothing, possibly a navy hooded sweatshirt, and low-hanging pants. Police say his face was completely covered except for his mouth. METRO

N.S. racking up another hefty snow-clearing bill

Transportation. Cost of snow removal projected to be \$9 million over budget

Snow-clearing costs in Nova Scotia could be as much as \$9 million over budget by the end of the winter, based on the latest government estimates.

Transportation Minister Geoff MacLellan says about \$40 million of the \$58 million that was budgeted to clear roads and highways has already been spent, with the total cost for the season now

By the numbers

\$70M

The province spent \$70 million to clear snow last year



A provincial plow tackles a snow-covered Highway 103 on Feb. 3. Last week alone, heavy storms cost the province \$7 million for snow removal. JEFF HARPER/METRO

expected to hit \$67 million.

MacLellan said storms that brought heavy snow and ice saw about \$7 million of the budget spent in the last week alone.

In the last three weeks, he said, the department has also had to bring in more private-sector contractors, which has added to the cost.

MacLellan said if extra

money is needed it would likely be from a new appropriation and would not come from existing programs in his department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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<p>2011 HONDA CR-V EX AWD</p> <p>52K FROM \$136 B/W P14-070</p>	<p>2011 ACURA MDX AWD</p> <p>65K FROM \$238 B/W U15-132</p>	<p>2011 MITSUBISHI RVR SE</p> <p>68K FROM \$159 B/W P14-025A</p>	<p>2012 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA JX</p> <p>77K FROM \$149 B/W M13-047A</p>

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Health

New meningococcal case not related to meningitis: Officials

Health officials are clarifying that a recent case of meningococcal septicaemia in Cape Breton is not connected to recent cases of meningitis in the province.

A media report initially

linked the cases, but they are completely different ailments, health department spokesman Tony Kiritsis said.

"There's meningococcal disease, and then within that family there would be meningococcal meningitis, which is what we've been seeing at Acadia and at St. F.X. and that Sackville case," he said.

There's a lot of confusion

out there, Kiritsis said.

"It is a little bit difficult sometimes for folks. They hear meningococcal and they automatically think meningitis."

The case involved an elderly woman in Cape Breton with meningococcal septicaemia.

She has been discharged from hospital and is recovering.

CAPE BRETON POST

Politics

Mulcair to have big day in Halifax

The federal leader of the New Democratic Party will be in Halifax next week, participating in events such as a tour of the Irving Shipyard and the puck drop at a minor hockey game.

Thomas Mulcair will attend a meeting and deliver



Thomas Mulcair
THE CANADIAN PRESS

a speech to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on Monday at the Casino Nova Scotia around 1:15 p.m., then tour the Irving Shipyard with local NDP MPs Peter Stoffer, Robert Chisholm and Megan Leslie.

At 6:30 p.m., Mulcair

is expected to travel to Dartmouth to take part in the ceremonial puck drop at the Central Minor Hockey Federation playoff game between the Cole Harbour Bel Ayr Wings and the Halifax Hawks at Cole Harbour Place on Forest Hills Parkway.

Mulcair will then end his one-day tour with a meet-and-greet at the Lion & Bright Café Wine Bar in Halifax on Monday night. METRO

Minister hopes to see lobster levy soon, in whatever form

Marketing. Fisheries boss aims to be flexible to get the majority of stakeholders on board

Nova Scotia's fisheries minister hopes a proposed levy to support a marketing strategy for the lobster industry can be in place by the fall.

Keith Colwell says he believes the fisheries sector will support the levy because all involved understand that marketing and lobster quality has to be improved.

The levy, proposed in a 2013 report, would see fishermen and the onshore side of the industry, such as buyers and processors, each pay one cent per pound of lobster caught to cover the cost of advertising campaigns and other promotional initiatives.

The proposal has been a sore point on Nova Scotia's southwest shore, where Colwell says lobster buyers and many fishermen are opposed.

Winning over the area's fishery is key because it accounts for 40 per cent of the country's total catch.

"We've talked to the buyers before in the area," said Colwell. "They're not opposed to paying but they don't like the one-cent levy and that's one reason why we've gone out to talk to the industry."

One of the suggestions under discussion is a licence fee, which he said buyers would agree to under certain conditions. Colwell didn't elaborate but added that he's not wedded to the levy idea.

"We will look into whatever fee structure works," he said.

The minister also noted that much of the industry wants input into how a fee would be collected and ultimately spent.

The majority of the industry would have to agree for the marketing initiative to work, Colwell said.

Consultations are set to wrap up in a couple of weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fishing boats sit loaded with lobster traps in Peggy's Cove in November 2013. Fisheries ministers from the three Maritime provinces say they're hoping for industry consensus to set up a fee that would pay for better branding of lobsters. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance minister warns unpopular moves needed

Finance Minister Diana Whalen wants to leave Nova Scotia in better shape financially than when she took office just over a year ago.

To do that, the minister said it's going to take some tough and possibly unpopular decisions in the coming months leading up to her second budget.

"We can't just limp along and do many of the things previous governments have done," Whalen said after



Nova Scotia Finance Minister
Diana Whalen
THE CANADIAN PRESS

speaking to a group of businesspeople and community activists in Amherst on Thurs-

day as part of her budget-consultation tour.

"Change is hard, because as politicians we're people, and you're always going to have an outcry when you try to do things," the minister said. "But it's something we have to do and something we're going to do."

Whalen said there remains a real disconnect between what people want and expect and what they can afford. CUMBERLAND NEWS

No relief for water worker caught peeing on mailbox

When you gotta go, you gotta go.

That was the case for one Halifax Water employee who was caught relieving himself near a mailbox on a street in Lower Sackville on Thursday, confirmed a spokesman.

"I think it's unfortunate that an incident like this happens; obviously it's not a good thing for an employee to be doing, and we don't condone it," James Campbell of Halifax Water said Thursday.

Quoted

"Obviously it's not a good thing for an employee to be doing, and we don't condone it."

Halifax Water spokesman James Campbell

He said that around the time the employee answered the call of nature he was "actually looking for a possible water-main break or a leak"

in the area.

Campbell said he's never encountered a situation quite like this before and was first notified by internal staff.

The employee in question now faces disciplinary action, Campbell said.

"There is a disciplinary policy in place for these unionized staff, and that process will certainly be followed. How that unfolds, I don't know."

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Highway 105

Sackville man charged with drug trafficking

Police have charged a Lower Sackville man with drug trafficking after the RCMP made a traffic stop on a highway in Cape Breton on Wednesday. The RCMP say an officer pulled over a pickup truck on Highway 105 in Baddeck

around 5:30 p.m. after suspecting the driver may have been driving impaired.

Police say a drug investigation was launched and the driver — a 29-year-old man — was allegedly found in possession of a kilogram of cocaine and 12 pounds of marijuana. He was charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. **METRO**

Entertainment law

Artists, lawyers coming together for conference

An upcoming conference in Halifax will bring together artists and lawyers in the hopes of raising awareness around issues in entertainment law.

The Edge of Now conference is a two-day event that

runs Feb. 27 and 28 and aims to educate musicians and filmmakers about legal issues and better inform lawyers on digital and intellectual property law.

The conference will tackle a range of topics from diversifying content in an indie market to how to negotiate music licensing agreements.

For information or to register for the event, visit nsalis.com/conference. **METRO**

Kentville

No students hurt after minor fire on school bus

Some Kentville students were late getting home Thursday afternoon due to a bus fire.

At 2:45 p.m., Kentville firefighters responded to a bus fire at the KCA school on Gary Pearl Drive.

It turned out to be a

minor electrical fire.

The bus was in the process of being loaded at the time. The students already on the bus were evacuated as a precaution.

No one was injured as a result. **KINGS COUNTY REGISTER**

On the web



For more local news, go to metronews.ca.

Fisherman appeals 14-year sentence for manslaughter

Crime. Joseph Landry was sent to prison last month for the death of Philip Boudreau

A notice of appeal has been filed, of the 14-year sentence handed to an Isle Madame fisherman convicted of manslaughter.

Luke Craggs, the lawyer representing Joseph Landry, 67, filed the notice at the registrar of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal in Halifax on Feb. 11.

On Jan. 29, Nova Scotia Supreme Court Chief Justice Kennedy sentenced Landry in the death of Philip Boudreau after a jury found Landry guilty of manslaughter following a lengthy trial in Port Hawkesbury.

In the filing, the grounds of appeal are listed as the trial judge making findings of fact not consistent with the jury's verdict and that Kennedy imposed a sentence "which was demonstrably harsh and excessive given the circumstances

The case continues

There are other people still facing charges in connection with Boudreau's death:

- **Dwayne Matthew Samson** faces a second-degree murder charge.
- Deckhand **Craig Landry**, a key witness in the James Landry case, faces an accessory charge.
- Also facing an accessory charge is Samson's wife, **Carla Boudreau**, James Boudreau's daughter.

of the offence and the circumstances of the appellant."

It also noted that Landry will ask for an order that the sentence be reduced to seven years, less the pre-sentence remand credit. The defence had sought a seven-year sentence while Crown attorneys Shane Russell and Steve Drake had asked for 15 years.

The filing states that the



The boat that Phillip Boudreau was on before his death. ALY THOMSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

argument would be presented in writing.

It was alleged at trial that the lobster fishing vessel the Twin Maggies engaged in an on-water altercation with Boudreau on the morning of June 1, 2013. Boudreau was suspected

of tampering with traps.

Landry had been charged with second-degree murder but the jury found him not guilty, instead finding him guilty of the lesser charge.

In passing sentence, Kennedy said acts of retribution

and revenge cannot be tolerated. Kennedy granted Landry pre-sentence credit of 901 days, leaving a remaining sentence of more than 11 years. He will be eligible for parole after serving one-third of that term.

A pre-sentence report noted

that Landry has not taken responsibility for Boudreau's death, but poses little risk to reoffend.

Kennedy found that Landry caused Boudreau's death, and that he had shot at Boudreau four times, hitting him once in the area of the leg. He found that Boudreau tried to get away, but his smaller boat became disabled, enabling Landry to grab Boudreau's bowline and tie it to the Twin Maggies. They then started to head out to sea, but Boudreau cut the bowline. The Twin Maggies then rammed Boudreau's boat three times. Boudreau ended up in the water, hanging onto a floating gas can. Kennedy found that Landry gaffed Boudreau's body several times in an effort to drag him out to sea. He did not find that Boudreau's body was weighed down with an anchor, saying they don't know how the jury treated that evidence.

Landry will also be subject to a lifetime firearms prohibition and must submit a DNA sample to the national registry. **CAPE BRETON POST**

Cape Breton couple left out on the edge, on their own

A Cape Breton couple living close to the eroding coastline in Port Morien fear they're going to lose everything.

Michael Boulet and his wife Kay have lived in their house on the coast of Port Morien since 1979.

Today their house is 14 feet from the edge of the cliff and there doesn't seem to be any help for them.

"We've had a lot of erosion — a lot," Kay said. "Our shed is only about six feet from the edge of the cliff. Soon it will be over the bank."



The Boulets' shed is about six feet from the edge of the cliff. CONTRIBUTED

She said it hasn't been too bad during some years, but during other years, it's been devastating.

"It depends on how many storms there are to how bad the erosion is."

She said the worst time is

in the spring after the ground thaws.

"When it thaws and then storms, it makes it erode a lot faster," she said.

"You can see the fill going down on the shore — it just rolls with the rain. There's nothing we can do but watch it and wonder when it's going to stop."

The Boulets used to have a slope to the cliff, where elephant ear plants grew.

"We lost about three feet one year through bad storms. The sea would come in and

Quoted

"The government should do something — when you get too close to the coastline they should help to relocate you." Michael Boulet

wash away the bottom, so of course the top rolls away."

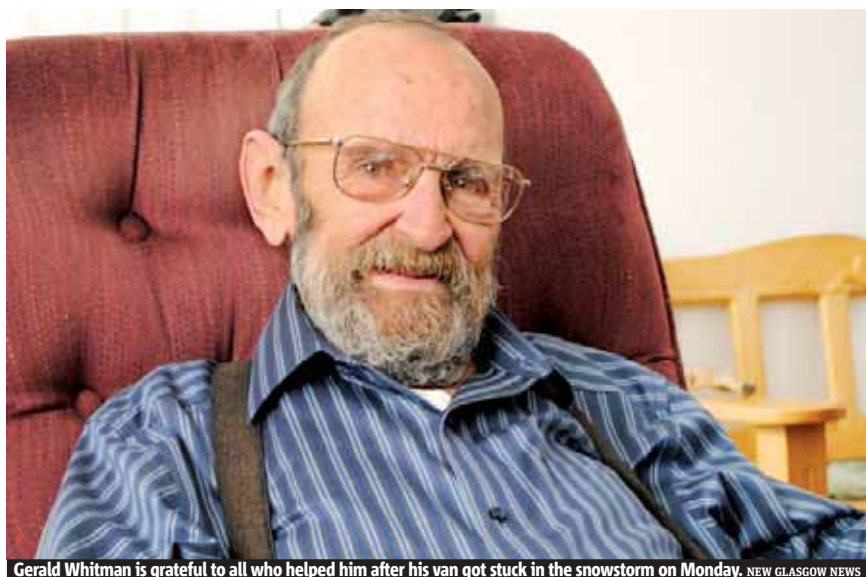
She said they've had Cape Breton-Canso MP Rodger Cuzner and Sydney River-Mira-

Louisbourg MLA Alfie MacLeod at the property in the past.

"We've been told the government is not going to step in and do something for one or two people when there's millions of miles of coastline. We've gotten the impression we are more or less on our own."

Michael said they were told to move when they got too close to the cliff.

"That's the only option they gave me years ago," he said. "That's not much of an option." **CAPE BRETON POST**



Gerald Whitman is grateful to all who helped him after his van got stuck in the snowstorm on Monday. NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Snowstorm survivor thankful to rescuers

Pictou. Several acts of kindness saved the life of Gerald Whitman, found lying in snow

Gerald Whitman is thankful to be alive and he says he owes a debt of gratitude to all of the people who helped him on Monday during an ordeal that almost cost him his life.

"I'm so thankful for the people that were around me," he says. "I made an innocent mistake, but it pretty near cost me everything."

Whitman, 73, set out early Monday morning to drive from his home in New Glasgow to Pictou, where he receives dialysis treatments. Because a snowstorm was in progress, he left around 6 a.m., knowing it would be a slow drive.

When he arrived at the Pictou causeway, it was closed, so he decided to drive the long way around. That, he says, was "mistake No. 1."

"I drove and drove and drove, and it was getting worse and worse. That was mistake No. 2."

And then his van got stuck. He says he had recently heard about someone who had spent 11 hours waiting in his car to be rescued, and decided he didn't want to wait.

"I thought, I'm not sitting

here — mistake No. 3."

He crawled out through the passenger side door because he couldn't open the driver's door, and started walking toward a house that he could see.

"The wind was fierce, the whiteout was fierce and the snow was deep," he says.

He suffers from arthritis in his legs and after what he figures was about 10 minutes of walking in the adverse conditions, he had to lie down to catch his breath and give his legs a rest.

"I continued on my hands and knees to go forward toward this house," he said.

Whitman estimates that he had to stop and lie down seven or eight times.

"Each time I would tell myself how dangerous it was to lie on the snow. Sometimes I hardly had strength to get up on all fours. The wind was so strong, I thought it might roll me down the road."

He believes he continued down the road for about an hour, and started to get concerned about his fingers freezing.

"I had given up and made my peace with God, lying in the snow," he says. "I only had my life left and I surrendered it."

He doesn't know how long he was there, but then he remembers hearing someone hollering at him to get up.

Charlie Parker, the former MLA for Pictou West, was outside shovelling his driveway on the Loch Broom Road when he spotted Whitman. Parker carried him as far as he could, then went in search of a toboggan to help him get the older man to his house. Although he didn't find the toboggan, Parker was

Gratitude

Gerald Whitman wanted to tell his story, not for his own sake, but to recognize everyone who helped him, especially Parker and his wife, Marilyn, and the paramedics.

- "It's gratitude, thanks and acknowledgement of my God that I'm speaking of," he says.

able to gain enough strength to make it the rest of the way with Whitman. Once they reached the house, Parker tried to warm him up and offered him coffee to drink. Whitman says he was unable to hold the cup, so Parker held it for him and let him sip from it.

Whitman started to regain some feeling in his hands, but was shaking violently. Parker got a snow plow to clear the way for an ambulance, which took Whitman to the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow.

Nurses and doctors examined him and bandaged his scraped knees — and then determined that he just really needed his dialysis treatment.

While receiving his treatment, people began to learn about his troubles. Several people — the Muirheads, the Youngs and a man named Mr. Roy — offered assistance in the form of bringing him food, giving him a drive home, and going out to find his vehicle, digging it out and having it towed to his home. Whitman says he finds it amazing that so many people helped him without even being asked. NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Quoted

"I think God was watching over Mr. Whitman."

Charlie Parker, former MLA for Pictou West, who helped Gerald Whitman

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Crown seeks jail time for former MP

Del Mastro. Prosecutor seeks to send 'clear message' about campaign overspending

As a Crown prosecutor sought to have Dean Del Mastro jailed up to a year for his campaign overspending convictions, the former Conservative MP's law-

yer vehemently argued the penalty would be far too harsh for a case he claimed did not involve electoral fraud.

The spirited submissions were made Thursday at a sentencing hearing for Del Mastro, who was found guilty last fall of violating the Canada Elections Act during the 2008 campaign.

The Crown said it was essential that the former politician's punishment deliver a clear

message. "Nothing less than a period of imprisonment of nine to 12 months would adequately reflect the gravity of the offences and the degree of his responsibility," said prosecutor Tom Lemon.

Lemon asked Del Mastro be required to pay \$10,000 to the Peterborough Conservative Party Electoral District Association to reimburse money he "fraudulently obtained" for a

Quoted

"Anything less than real jail would fall short of properly denouncing his conduct and adequately deterring him and others from committing these or similar offences."

Prosecutor Tom Lemon

contract with a consulting firm.

Del Mastro — Prime Minister Stephen Harper's one-time point man on defending the

Tories against allegations of electoral fraud — has maintained his innocence throughout his trial. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Former MP Dean Del Mastro
FRED THORNHILL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget. Feds commit another \$10M to ads

The latest federal spending estimates show that four federal government departments have been given another \$11 million for advertising as the current fiscal year-end approaches.

The ad spending splurge comes amid large campaigns promoting Conservative family tax measures that have not yet been approved by Parliament and aggressive Defence department recruitment ads that dovetail with current Conservative anti-terrorism messaging.

In total, the Conservatives have now committed \$65 million to advertising this fiscal year, which ends March 31.

The total would be higher but Industry Canada appears to have thought better of spending \$6.5 million earmarked for a "consumer initiatives" campaign, returning the money to the overall ad envelope.

The latest allotments include \$3.5 million to the Finance department, bringing its yearly total to \$11 million.

A spokeswoman said in an email response that "additional funding was allocated to the department of Finance to inform Canadians about economic action plan measures

Where it's being spent

- National Defence gets \$3 million for the recruiting ads currently blanketing the sports networks, while Citizenship and Immigration has been given another \$3 million on top of the \$3 million it has already spent.
- The Heritage department, which had already spent \$7.2 million on ads touting the country's 150th birthday in 2017, receives another \$1.5 million.

and benefits."

Liberal finance critic Scott Brison grouched that with the 2015 federal budget delayed until at least April amid plunging oil prices, the government's priorities are skewed.

"With the Canadian economy flatlined, Canadians need action, not more 'action plan' ads," Brison said in a telephone interview. "They're spending more time writing ads than they are writing a budget."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan

Reserve where 2 died in fire had fire truck but no crew

A Saskatchewan reserve where two children were killed in a blaze that didn't get a response from firefighters has a working fire truck but no proper equipment or a crew trained to use it. While the house burned early Tuesday, the truck sat in the snow. The volunteer fire department in nearby Loon Lake didn't respond, because service to the reserve was cut weeks earlier over unpaid bills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iraq

Canadian jets destroyed bomb factory: Military

The military says Canadian CF-18 fighter jets conducted a single attack in Iraq last week, leading a coalition strike that destroyed a factory making improved explosive devices. Navy Capt. Paul Forget says the attack on Friday was a success. He says coalition air attacks and Iraqi ground efforts continue to degrade the operational ability of the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

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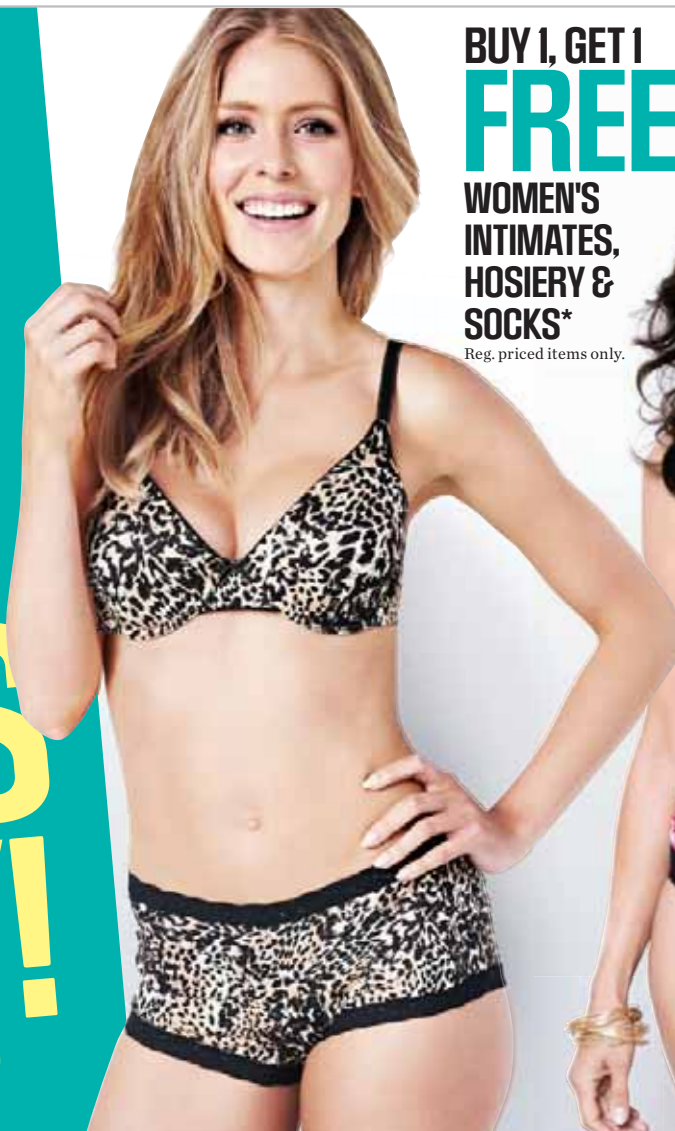
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Ian Bush

Linking of home invasion and triple killing has tainted case, says lawyer

A man accused of robbing and attempting to kill an elderly veteran heads to court Friday with an even darker cloud on the horizon — which at least one expert says has tainted the case against him.

Ian Bush is scheduled to

appear in an Ottawa court, charged with attempted murder, robbery with violence, forcible confinement and breaking and entering, in connection with a home invasion last December.

That case garnered national attention on its own: The victim Ernest Cote was a 101-year-old veteran of D-Day, and it came just weeks after two Canadian soldiers were killed in attacks in Quebec and on Parliament Hill.

But the spotlight on Bush,

59, intensified after a number of media outlets reported that the father of three was also being investigated in connection with a triple homicide in 2007.

Bush's lawyer, Geraldine Castle-Trudel, says it's clear police leaked the information linking her client to the deaths of retired tax court judge Alban Garon, his wife Raymonde and their neighbour Marie-Claire Beniskos.

The leak has turned the case into "a kind of free-for-all witch hunt and media circus,"

Castle-Trudel said earlier this week.

Now, questions are swirling about whether Bush can get a fair trial on the assault charges he already faces.

"In court we go to great lengths to make sure that people are tried for the charges that they're actually charged with and not tried based on reputation or character or other bad acts," said criminal defence lawyer Michael Spratt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



John Nuttall and Amanda Korody in an RCMP undercover video.
COURTESY RCMP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terror vile but necessary, says suspect on tape

Alleged Canada Day plot. Accused prays no Muslims, and few kids or women, will be there

In the latest video played for a B.C. Supreme Court jury, Nuttall's jovial mood suddenly falls away as he turns his attention to the ultimate goal.

"What does it feel like to kill somebody? Do you know?" Nuttall asks the officer. "I've got to admit, the thought of what we're doing makes me feel sick."

The undercover officer tells Nuttall it's unnatural to kill and there's nothing unusual about feeling sick about it. In fact, the officer tells Nuttall several times that he doesn't have to go through with the plan.

"I do want to do it," says Nuttall. "Neither of us like it, but we know it has to be done. This is a war."

Later on, he prays as he asks that some potential victims be spared.

"Please, don't let there be any Muslims there," he says. "Let there be very few women and children, inshallah (if Allah wills it), and no Muslims."

The Crown alleges Nuttall and Korody, recent converts to Islam, planned the attack to respond to what they see as the mistreatment of Muslims overseas.

In the videos, Nuttall denounces Canadian military involvement in predominantly Muslim countries, as well as the federal government's position on Palestinian statehood. He also makes derogatory remarks about Jews.

Nuttall and Korody have pleaded not guilty.

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Family of strip-searched teen to sue school board

The lawyer representing the family of a 15-year-old girl who was strip-searched at a Quebec City high school says they intend to take the school board to court.

Lawyer Francois David Bernier says the high school misinterpreted government guidelines on searching students and humiliated his client.

The incident sparked outrage across the country after the girl told a local paper she felt violated by the search one week ago. The school proceeded with the search after officials suspected her of selling drugs.

The school board said in a news release that administrators at the Neufchatel high school followed government and police guidelines for conducting school strip searches.

The government guidelines, however, do not specifically mention naked searches.

The school said the girl was made to take off her clothes and stand behind a blanket while school officials searched her clothing.

"In no case does the document talk about nude searches," Bernier said. "We blame the school board because it took the government document and interpreted it erroneously."

Bernier said he has not officially filed any documents in court and is still evaluating the damage done to his client.

He added that the family is not ruling out seeking punitive damages against the school and the governing board.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fahmy says Al Jazeera partly at fault for ordeal

Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy, who is awaiting retrial after more than a year behind bars in Egypt on terrorism-related charges, said his employer — Al Jazeera English — is partially to blame for his grinding ordeal.

Fahmy said it would be "naive" and "misleading" to see the case purely as a crackdown on press freedom, because it was complicated by Al Jazeera's "negligence" and Qatar's use of the outlet to "wage a media war" against Cairo.

"I am not losing sight of who put me in prison," he said, referring to the Egyptian prosecutors, who failed to present any evidence related to the terror charges in a trial widely condemned by rights groups and major media outlets.

"However, Al Jazeera's epic negligence has made our situation harder, more difficult, and gave our captor more firepower," Fahmy said in an inter-



Mohamed Fahmy THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

view at his family home in a Cairo suburb.

"It is an infringement on freedom of speech to silence three innocent, recognized journalists. Yet a very important aspect of this case is Qatar abusing its Al Jazeera Arabic platform in waging a media war against Egypt," he said.

Al Jazeera officials did not respond to emails seeking comment. The broadcaster spearheaded a global media campaign calling for the release of the reporters, insisting they were unjustly punished.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social security

Some sick, broke appellants denied speedy hearings

Dozens of gravely ill or financially strapped Canadians denied Canada Pension Plan disability benefits were refused accelerated appeals in 2014 by Ottawa's backlogged social security tribunal. Thousands of ailing Canadians are now waiting as long as five years to have their appeals heard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-vaccine material

Queen's prof won't teach same course

A health sciences professor who came under scrutiny over claims she was teaching anti-vaccination materials will not be allowed to teach the class in the future, Queen's University said Thursday. Melody Torcolacci will also have to work with academic officials to ensure that any future course offerings are based on material that's intellectually sound.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



It's Lucky the Bison knocking

Sandy Melanson pets a bison at her front door in Dryden, Ont., on Tuesday. Melanson says the runaway bison from a nearby ranch came up the driveway and right up to their front door. She says the animal, named Lucky, has wandered away a few times from the Northern Buffalo Ranch down the road.

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kenney praises anti-terrorism bill

Security. More homegrown jihadist terror attacks possible, says defence minister

Defence Minister Jason Kenney sang the praises of the federal government's anti-terror bill Thursday as he used his maiden speech to Canada's military establishment to warn that more homegrown terror attacks are likely.

The country is engaged in a long-term ideological struggle with radical Islam, Kenney told the annual Ottawa gathering hosted by the Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

"We need only to look to Copenhagen, to Paris, to Brussels and to Sydney," Kenney said. The notion that western

civilization and style of government are never going to be challenged is wrongheaded, he added. Canada's geographic remoteness, prosperity and pluralism "have given Canadians reason to think that we can avoid real threats to our peaceable dominion. Yet we face a global movement that quite literally defies reason."

Kenney, who took over from Rob Nicholson earlier this month, says the country "shouldn't overreact to this threat, nor should we under-react."

Debate over the government's proposed Bill C-51, which would increase the powers of security agencies, notably the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), began earlier this week in the House of Commons.

The concerns of the bill's

critics are exaggerated, Kenney said. "We are taking all of these steps while respecting the rights of Canadians."

New Democrats oppose the legislation. The Liberals have said they will support it, but promise to fix some of the flaws if they form government after this year's election.

One of the loudest complaints about the bill is that it lacks additional oversight of intelligence services to prevent possible excesses. The government says no new mechanisms or bodies are needed beyond what already exists.

Bill C-51 is the government's response to the killing last October of two Canadian soldiers, one of whom died during the Oct. 22 attack on Parliament Hill. The bill is meant to counter the threat of homegrown radicalism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Security budget

DND, CSIS, RCMP unable to spend \$11B since 2007

New figures show the country's three major national security institutions were collectively unable to spend \$11 billion of their budgets over the last eight years.

The statistics on lapsed funds at National Defence, the CSIS and the RCMP were presented today. The numbers contrast with the rosy assessment of the government's defence spending record as presented by Jason Kenney. Kenney dismissed the argument over lapsed funding, saying all departments do it as part of the budget process, an explanation the government used when it was revealed Veterans Affairs gave back \$1.13 billion in unspent cash.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-PMs call for better intelligence accountability

Four former prime ministers and several retired Supreme Court members are among almost two dozen prominent Canadians calling for stronger security oversight.

Their statement, published Thursday in the Globe and Mail and La Presse newspapers, comes as the Conservative government proposes a new,

expanded mandate for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to counter terrorist threats.

"Protecting human rights and protecting public safety are complementary objectives, but experience has shown that serious human rights abuses can occur in the name of maintaining national security," the

statement says.

"Given the secrecy around national security activities, abuses can go undetected and without remedy."

"This results not only in devastating personal consequences for the individuals, but a profoundly negative impact on Canada's reputation as a rights-respecting nation."

The Security Intelligence Review Committee currently oversees CSIS, doing several studies each year and tabling a report in Parliament.

The statement published Thursday was signed by Jean Chrétien, Paul Martin, Joe Clark, John Turner and 18 others involved in security matters over the years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington

Anti-gay florist to appeal ruling

A florist in Washington state who refused to provide flowers for a gay wedding plans to appeal a judge's ruling that she broke a state anti-discrimination law.

Alliance Defending Freedom says the ruling threatens the financial ruin of 70-year-old Richland florist Barronelle Stutzman, along with her

business, Arlene's Flowers. The organization says it will file the appeal on her behalf.

Benton County Superior Court Judge Alex Ekstrom on Wednesday rejected arguments that Stutzman's actions were protected by her freedoms of speech and religion.

Ekstrom says the First Amendment protects religious beliefs but not necessarily actions based on those beliefs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Terrorism

PLO argues against compensating terror victims

The PLO and Palestinian Authority should not be blamed for terror attacks in Israel that killed or wounded Americans in the early 2000s, the groups' lawyer told a New York City jury Thursday, but the victims' attorney insisted the organizations sanctioned

the bloodshed.

The civil case in Manhattan and another in Brooklyn have emerged as the most notable attempts by American victims of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to use U.S. courts to seek damages that could reach into the billions of dollars.

Defence attorney Mark Rochon said there was no proof the PLO sanctioned the six attacks alleged in a 2004 lawsuit. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Anti-marijuana lawsuit filed

Colorado Rep. Jonathan Singer, D-Longmont, speaks during a news conference in Denver in reaction to the announcement that a federal lawsuit is being filed early Thursday on behalf of two Colorado citizens to shut down the state's \$800-million-a-year marijuana industry.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two 'superbug' deaths linked to dirty instrument

Antibiotic resistance. Incompletely sterilized endoscope carries lethal bacteria

known antibiotics.

UCLA said Wednesday that the infections may have been transmitted through at least two contaminated endoscopes that were used to diagnose and treat pancreatic and bile-duct problems.

An endoscope — or more specifically in this case, a duodenoscope — is a thin, flexible fibre-optic tube that is inserted down the throat to enable a doctor to examine an organ. The device typically has a light and a miniature camera.

"We notified all patients who had this type of procedure, and we were using seven different scopes. Only two of them were found to be infected. In an abundance of caution, we notified everybody," UCLA spokeswoman Dale Tate said.

The two medical devices carried the bacteria even though they had been sterilized according to the manufacturer's specifications, UCLA said.

More than 500,000 patients undergo procedures using duodenoscopes in the U.S. every year, according to the FDA.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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WORLD

19

Rebel fighters hug as they take control of key Ukrainian town

Debaltseve. Retreating Ukrainian soldiers grim, with at least 13 dead and hundreds missing, wounded

For the rebel fighters who seized control of this strategic town, Thursday was a day of jubilation and bragging of victory. The retreating Ukrainian soldiers were grim, stunned and relieved to have escaped with their lives as the scope of their losses became clearer: at least 13 dead and hundreds missing, captured or wounded.

Rebel fighters roamed the debris-littered streets of Debaltseve, laughing, hugging and posing for photos a day after the fall of the furiously contested railway hub. Journalists found its neigh-

bourhoods destroyed and all were under the control of the rebels.

On the road out of town, dozens of Ukrainian military vehicles, many riddled with bullet holes and with their windshields smashed, were heading to the government-held city of Artemivsk.

The soldiers inside described weeks of harrowing rebel shelling, followed by a hasty retreat.

"We left under heavy fire, driving on back roads," said a soldier who gave only his first name, Andrei. "As we were leaving, we were attacked by artillery and grenade launchers. We came under repeated attack by tanks and assault groups."

As rebels waved separatist flags, Nikolai Kozitsyn, a Russian cossack leader and prominent warlord in the rebel-controlled east, drove around in a Humvee-



A pro-Russia rebel cossack, second left, hugs another rebel in Debaltseve, Ukraine, on Thursday. PETER LEONARD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

like vehicle captured from Ukrainian troops.

All around lay the

wrecked remains of Ukrainian armoured vehicles. Rebel fighters, many of them cos-

sacks, searched through the bunkers and tents of an abandoned military encampment,

looking to salvage equipment and clothing left behind.

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Murderer prepared for deed: Report

A gunman who killed six University of California Santa Barbara students searched online for ways to silently kill before using knives to stab to death his first three victims, one of them 94 times, according to a sheriff's department report.

Stab and slash marks on a fitted sheet and several pillows suggest 22-year-old Elliot Rodger rehearsed his actions. In a final handwritten journal entry dated that day, he

wrote: "This is it. In one hour I will have my revenge on this cruel world. I HATE YOU ALL!! DIE."

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office released the 64-page report Thursday summarizing the results of their investigation into the May 23 rampage and providing new details on how Rodger, the son of a Hollywood director, killed his two roommates and their friend in his apartment,

gunned down two women outside a sorority and killed a sixth person. Fourteen people were also injured.

Rodger used two long fixed-blade knives, including a nearly-nine-inch boar hunting knife, to kill roommates James Hong and Wei Han "David" Wang, both 20, and a visiting friend, George Chen, 19.

Chen was stabbed 94 times, according to the report.

Rodger had been randomly assigned to share the apartment with Hong and Wang.

Rodger searched online for "quiet silent kill with a knife" before likely ambushing each and stabbing them.

The Isla Vista rampage was foreshadowed by a chilling Internet video in which he vowed to his victims that he would "take great pleasure in slaughtering all of you."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant wave the group's flag from a damaged display of a government fighter jet following the battle for the Tabqa air base, in August 2014 in Raqqa, Syria.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ RAQQA MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP, FILE

ISIL falters in Syria

Middle East. Internal power struggles and Syrian military slow extremists' advance

As the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant tries to expand and take root across the Middle East, it is struggling in Syria — part of its heartland — where it has stalled or even lost ground while fighting multiple enemies on several fronts.

Signs of tension and power struggles are emerging among the ranks of its foreign fighters.

The extremists remain a formidable force, and the group's hold on about a third of Iraq and Syria remains firm. But it appears to be on the defensive in Syria for the first time since it swept through the territory last year and is suffering from months of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes and the myriad factions fighting it on the ground.

Kurdish forces dealt the Islamic State its heaviest setback by driving it from the border town of Kobani in northern Syria last month. Since then, those forces have joined with moderate Syrian rebels to take back about 215 villages in the same area, according to Kurdish commanders and activists, including the Britain-based monitoring group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The gains have strained

supply lines between ISIL's westernmost strongholds in Aleppo province from its core territory in eastern Syria. The Kurdish-rebel forces are now expected to take the fight to some of those strongholds, particularly the large towns of Minbij and Jarablus, as well as Tal Abyad, a border crossing with Turkey that is a major avenue for commerce for the extremists.

Around the town of al-Bab, one of ISIL's westernmost strongholds, the extremists are making tactical withdrawals. Residents have noted a thinner militant presence in al-Bab.

"The prolonged battle for Kobani caused a lot of tensions — fighters accused each other of treachery and eventually turned on each other," said Bari Abdellatif, a resident of al-Bab who fled to Turkey.

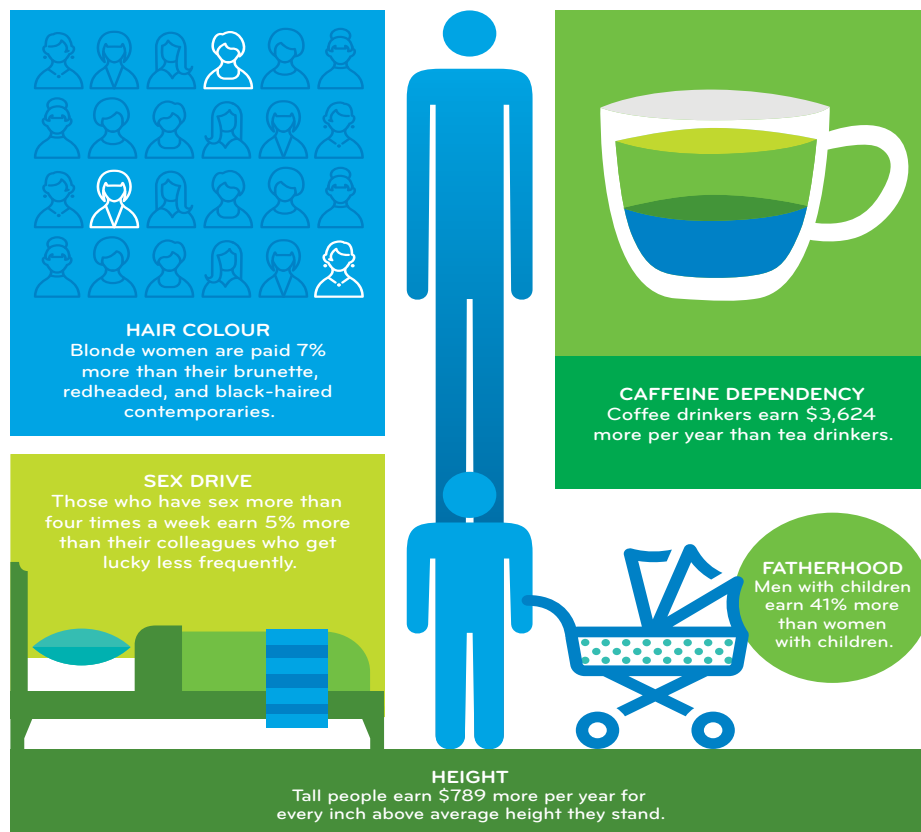
Several other activists confirmed recent clashes between factions from different national backgrounds within ISIL.

The militants are also finding themselves bogged down in costly battles with the government forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In Iraq, the combination of coalition airstrikes, Kurdish forces, Shiite militias and Iraqi troops have pushed ISIL back around the edges, but the militants succeeded this week in taking new territory for the first time in months. They also raised new alarms with the presence of their affiliate in Libya. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WORKOPOLIS
Let's get to work

Battery maker suing Apple

Electric cars. A123 Systems alleges staff poached for nearly identical division amid reports of secret Apple electric vehicle project

Battery maker A123 Systems is suing Apple, claiming it aggressively poached some key staff members in violation of their nondisclosure and non-compete agreements when they left A123.

According to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts, A123 is seeking a restraining order and preliminary injunction to stop former employee Mujeeb Ijaz from hiring former A123 employees at Apple,

Coming down the wire

- General Motors said Thursday it will start building the Chevrolet Bolt electric car in 2017. It will have a 320-kilometre range and will cost \$37,500 US.

- Tesla Motors plans to start selling a 320-kilometre-per-charge car about the same time. The Model 3 price is likely to be well below \$30,000 US.

where he now works. A123 makes lithium-ion batteries for electric cars and other products.

"It appears that Apple, with the assistance of defend-

ant Ijaz, is systematically hiring away A123's high-tech PhD and engineering employees, thereby effectively shutting down various projects/programs at A123," A123 says in the complaint.

General Motors and Tesla Motors have electric cars in the works, and Nissan is already selling an electric car called the Leaf.

The suit is the latest development in A123's checkered history. It received a \$249-million US grant from the Department of Energy in August 2009 to help it build U.S. factories, but it posted repeated losses and struggled for several years as Americans have been slow to embrace electric cars. It filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2012, sold off assets and reorganized. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Walmart workers in U.S. getting raises

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is spending \$1 billion to make changes to how it pays and trains U.S. hourly workers as the embattled retailer tries to reshape the image that its Walmart stores offer dead-end jobs. As part of its biggest investment in worker training and pay ever, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. told The Associated Press that within the next six months, it will give raises to about 500,000 workers, or nearly 40 per cent of its 1.3 million U.S. employees. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

SNC-Lavalin

RCMP lays fraud, corruption charges

The RCMP has laid fraud and corruption charges against Montreal-based engineering firm SNC-Lavalin and two of its subsidiaries following an investigation into the companies' dealings in Libya. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute



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VOICES

CELEBS DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT

THE KOHLER
REPORT

By Rebecca Kohler

Is it just me, or has there been an uptick lately in celebrities touting pseudo-medical advice that seems particularly unsound? From weird pubic care to body-binding workout regimes, the tabloids are starting to look more like quack medical encyclopedias than entertaining gossip rags.

One of the most recent examples of weird body care advice comes from Gwyneth Paltrow vis-à-vis the V-Steem. Gwyneth recently wrote a post on her lifestyle website, GOOP, about how she had her vagina steamed: "You sit on what is essentially a mini-throne, and a combination of infrared and mugwort steam cleanses your uterus, et al." she insisted. "If you're in L.A. you have to do it." Sorry, G., but I have my next trip to L.A. all planned out and it involves eating tacos, not cleansing them.

While I used to view celebrity advice and websites such as GOOP as just irritating (GOOP is hard for me to read because my eyes won't stop rolling), I'm starting to wonder if this stuff is actually dangerous.

After Gwyn poached her pants area, doctors went berserk online, citing all sorts of reasons why that is a terrible idea. That part of the

female body has an ecosystem and sending steam through the chute has the potential to throw it off balance. I'd say the idiom, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" has never been truer than when referring to a vagina.

Kim Kardashian has also touted some iffy practices to the common people. Kim is a fan and advocate of "waist training," which involves wearing a corset, even while you work out — the stupid idea being that you sweat more in your abdomen area. Also, the corset is making your waist tinier because ... well it's not, because that's impossible. Look, I get the science behind binding a baby, but trying to shrink your waist as an adult? You're fully-grown and your bones are hard. Deal. But KK has posted several selfies in her corset and the masses are listening.

Doctors are upset about the corsets, too. Wearing a corset for extended periods of time — "waist trainers" wear them for up to 12 hours a day — can not only weaken your abdominal muscles but also actually make them atrophy. "Look at my tiny waist! Pay no attention to the shrivelled, dead muscle."

Then there's Selma Hayek, a vocal fan of juice cleanses and/or detoxes who insists that's how she maintains her sexy figure. Studies prove both of these practices to be useless. Real doctors will tell you that your body has a

No steaming necessary

After Gwyn poached her pants area, doctors went berserk online, citing all sorts of reasons as to why that is a terrible idea.

natural detoxification system in place — liver, lungs, skin etc. — and doesn't need your help.

Let's not forget the celebrity anti-vaxxers who may or may not be partly responsible for the recent measles outbreak in North America. Jenny McCarthy is famously outspoken in saying vaccinations cause autism — which, for the MILLIONTH time, they DON'T — and reality star Kristin Cavallari joined in the fun last year, stating, "Here's the thing ... There are very scary statistics out there regarding ... vaccines and what they cause: asthma, allergies, ear infections ..." Ear infections? Seriously, lady? Even if that were true, are you saying you'd rather your kid get measles than an ear infection? (I got an ear infection just listening to the interview.)

Considering celebs are rich and successful and generally good-looking, it makes sense that people would look to them for life advice. But as "successful" as someone like Kim Kar-

dashian is, we have to remember she's not a professional of any sort. The best teachings she has to offer probably involve dislodging a bad wedgie.

Please don't take advice from celebrities because a) it can be dangerous; b) it'll cost you a fortune; and, c) when we hear these snippets about their "amazing lives," we're not getting the full story. Did it ever occur to Salma Hayek that she's hot because she can afford \$800 face creams and personal trainers and chefs to cook her healthy meals? Gwyneth Paltrow might be steaming her vagina to fill a void (no pun intended) left by her "conscious uncoupling" and Kim Kardashian's waist looks small because she has big boobs and a booty. As for Kristin Cavallari, not vaccinating her kids might be her best bet at getting any sort of publicity. If you absolutely feel like your vagina needs a steam (mine is pretty steamy on its own) or you could lose a few pounds or inches, then OK, but talk to a doctor first. I know your doctor is boring compared to a Hollywood star, but that's because he/she studied a lot to know what's best for you.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From top dogs to uncomfortable visits, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



FAKING IT

Oregon man Aleksander Tomaszewski, who was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault, has gained a couple new charges after allegedly beating himself up while in custody, and trying to blame police for his injuries. Video shows a man punching himself in the face as many as 60 times in his holding cell. Just a reminder folks, Big Brother is watching you. Especially if you're in a police station.



DOG-GONE RIGHT!

America's top dog is a Canuck! A mild-mannered beagle named Miss P was named Best in Show at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club at Madison Square Garden this week. The pooch, who originally hails from Enderby, B.C., has already made the morning talk show circuit and met Donald Trump.



ROYALLY EMBARRASSING

Like any obligatory trip home to see the parents whose privilege you've spent a lifetime trying to escape but never fully disowned, Canada's visits to England always feel a little off. This time, the weirdness took place at Thursday's official reopening of Canada's newly refurbished high commission in London. Unaccountably, John Baird was there representing us. He's even referred to as foreign minister on the commemorative plaque. You'll recall, of course, that he quit that job weeks ago. Yeah. Awkward.



TIGHTY WHITEYS

This week in amazing excuses: A Manitoba MP is holding cheap, ill-fitting underwear to account for a "brief" absence from his seat in the House of Commons while a vote was being counted. "I can blame it on a sale that was down at the Hudson's Bay; they had men's underwear on for half price. I bought a bunch that was clearly too small," said Winnipeg Centre representative Pat Martin. Cheeky, Mr. Martin, very cheeky.



STRIP-SEARCHED TEEN

Quebec school officials are under serious fire after strip-searching a 15-year-old student for allegedly having marijuana. The province's education minister defended such searches as a reasonable safety measure provided they are done in a "respectful" manner. The girl's parents and civil-rights groups vocally disagree.



Focus on fashion



Kathy Griffin GETTY IMAGES

Kathy Griffin is ready to rip on the red carpet

Kathy Griffin likes to joke (or is she serious?) that, one year on her tax return, she put her profession as "Anonymous." Such is her multi-hyphenate stature: a standup comic, sitcom star, reality-show queen, periodic D-Lister and, now, host of Fashion Police, E! network's couture critique.

Griffin has retrieved the mantle from Joan Rivers, who presided riotously in cahoots with her Joan Rangers until her death last summer. "She obviously left very big shoes," said Griffin.

"But we agree that it's essential to comedy to be fearless and not be afraid to make enemies — certainly, in Hollywood! C'mon, we're not talking about heads of state here."

As for viewing, Griffin says: "I haven't decided whether to go to a party where I can get more material, or just watch at home, judging harshly in silence." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NPH's time to shine

Interview. First-time Academy Awards host talks about nerves, his hosting heroes and what he'll do if Kanye crashes the stage

Neil Patrick Harris might use his job as Oscar host as a way to meet his favourite stars. "I have, essentially, an all-access pass to the theatre," Harris said during a recent interview.

"So I love being able to stand there and say hello to people I've never met before. I'm very easily star struck, so it'll be very exciting to shake hands with celebrities."

Harris has hosted the Emmys twice and the Tony Awards four times — and has won both awards. On Sunday, he takes on his first Oscar show. The multi-talented entertainer took a few minutes between rehearsals to talk about his plans for the big night.

How is preparing to host the Oscars different from the Tonys or Emmys?

I want to make sure my content is inclusive of everyone watching, and more people watch the Oscars than any other awards show probably combined. I have more filters probably, in terms of content... The Oscars — it's a ritual for many people. They see it every single year, and all around the world. So I want to be a little classier and try to be a bit more mainstream while trying to

maintain a wink and a nod to those in the know.

You watched all the past Oscar hosts as part of your research. Who stood out for you, and who would you most like to emulate?

My initial answer would probably be Billy Crystal. I was just the right age to be so taken by movies as an idea, and he had such joy and exuberance about the world of film... But as I've done more research, I'm even more impressed now by the older-school generation of Johnny Carson, Bob Hope, and their ability to stand in one place and make (people) feel comfortable just in their demeanour. Because it's a very classy night — everyone's in their tuxedos and fancy dresses — so I'm hoping to make it feel like an A-list dinner party that you get to come and attend.

How nervous are you?

Well, my job as host is to not be nervous when the show is happening. But I think, in life, being nervous about something that's forthcoming is very helpful, whether it's an awards show or a family gathering or a job interview. If you're too calm and confident, then I think you aren't executing to the best of your ability. So I try not to let nerves get the best of me, but I welcome them because it tends to fuel me to try harder.

Have you prepared for the possibility of Kanye West coming onstage?

I think the security at Saturday Night Live is still holding him in his seat there from last (week's) show.

So, fingers crossed, he's detained in New York



City. No, nothing would make me happier than something as random as that, as Kanye West deciding to participate in the show in some way. That's why you want to watch the Oscars. We hope for things to happen that you'll only experience by watching it... The crazier the better, as far as I'm concerned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What to watch and when

CTV begins Oscar coverage at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

- ETalk's Red Carpet Special starts at 7 p.m. AT. Ben Mulroney and Lainey Lui will be on a balcony capturing a bird's eye view of red carpet arrivals.
- The Oscars Opening Ceremony, hosted by Good Morning America anchors Robin Roberts and Lara Spencer, starts at 8 p.m., showcasing the nominees, presenters and performers arriving on the ABC red carpet.
- The main event starts at 9:30 p.m.
- You have to be a subscriber to CTV Go to watch the broadcast online. Anyone can stream coverage from the Academy Awards press room at ctv.ca.

2 SCENE

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NOTICE OF STATEMENT OF CLAIM

To: ANGELA L. GOODMAN

An action has been commenced against you in this Court by Tanya L. Rogers in which the Plaintiff's claim is for injury and damage in the amount of \$150,000.00 plus special damages, interest and costs, resulting from a motor vehicle accident on February 28, 2012, in the City of Grande Prairie, in the Province of Alberta.

It was ordered by Justice D.B. Dixon of the Court of Queen's Bench on February 17, 2015, that service of the Statement of Claim on you be effective by this advertisement. If you wish to defend the action, you have only 30 days from the date of this publication to file and serve a Statement of Defence or Demand of Notice in the office of the Court of Queen's Bench in Grande Prairie, Alberta. You or your lawyer must also leave a copy of your Statement of Defence or Demand of Notice at the address for service for the Plaintiff (which is set out below).

Warning: If you do not do both things within 30 days, you may automatically lose the law suit. The Plaintiff may get a Court judgment against you if you do not file, or do not give a copy to the Plaintiff, or do either thing late.

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Solicitors for the Plaintiff

Attention: Michael J. Hussey

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If Metro could hack the Academy vote

Rather than waste your time with Oscar predictions, which are bound to be wrong anyway, here's something slightly more useful: What we'd pick, if anyone had asked us.

NED EHRBAR & MATT PRIGGE
For Metro

Best picture

What should win: Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel* is the kind of carefully crafted, completely realized vision that should be edging out *Boyhood* and *Birdman*.

What should have been nominated: If the Academy had any guts it would have celebrated the singular vision of Dan Gilroy's *Nightcrawler*.



Wes Anderson GETTY IMAGES

Best director

Who should win: Given he's created his own style of filmmaking, it's incredible *The Grand Budapest Hotel*'s Wes Anderson hasn't won a directing Oscar yet.

Who should have been nominated: With the *ScarJo* alien opus *Under the Skin*, Jonathan Glazer created a genuinely unique film.

Best actor

Who should win: Hype demands Michael Keaton or Eddie Redmayne win this, but Bradley Cooper's steely and very, very, very quietly anguished turn in *American Sniper* was one of the reasons the film was more complicated than its fans and detractors claim.

Who should have been nominated: Mysteriously, Ralph Fiennes' super-alert creation — *Monsieur Gustave H.* in Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* — both debonair and lowbrow (and sometimes in the same rattled-off line), was snubbed in favour of actors mostly playing real people.



Supporting actor

Who should win: He may be only slightly less intimidating than his Oz Neo-Nazi, but J.K. Simmons' jazz instructor in *Whiplash* was still a thoroughly embodied portrait of a sociopath.

Who should have been nominated: As a 60-year-old virgin, Stellan Skarsgård helped make sure Lars Von Trier's porn epic *Nymphomaniac* was the infamous filmmaker's funniest and most humane film.



J.K. Simmons
GETTY IMAGES

Best actress

Who should win: For once, everyone seems to be in agreement, because no performance this year came close to inevitable winner Julianne Moore for *Still Alice*.

Who should have been nominated: Into the Woods might not have done much this awards season, but Emily Blunt still deserves recognition for her standout work in the Sondheim musical.

Julianne Moore
GETTY IMAGES



Best supporting actress

Who should win: Let's hear it for Keira Knightley, who took what could have been a rather dull, throwaway supporting role in *The Imitation Game* and quietly ran away with the film, outshining even co-star and fellow nominee Benedict Cumberbatch.

Who should have been nominated: Rene Russo stepped back into the spotlight in outstanding fashion as a cut-throat, desperate local news producer in *Nightcrawler*.



Keira Knightley and Benedict Cumberbatch CONTRIBUTED

Best original screenplay

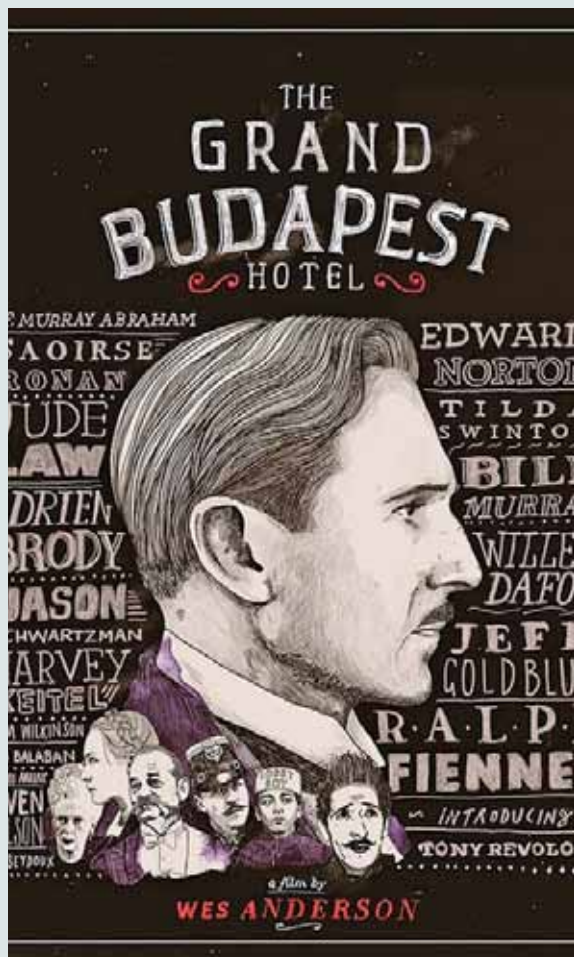
What should win: Wes Anderson's films are constructed top-to-bottom, and the riots of pink and spot-on performances in *The Grand Budapest Hotel* are nothing without the solid foundation of its script.

What should have been nominated: Justin Simien's *Dear White People* shuffles around a score of characters and provocative ideas like pieces on a chessboard.

Best adapted screenplay

What should win: Paul Thomas Anderson should take this one. He did the impossible in bringing a Thomas Pynchon novel to the screen.

What should have been nominated: The Writers Guild decided *Guardians of the Galaxy* was worthy of recognition, so why couldn't the Academy? Yes, it's a comic book movie, but it's a damn fine comic book movie.



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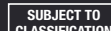
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A moving tale of small-town sports success

Biopic. Running coach who was the inspiration behind McFarland film remains humble despite Hollywood treatment

Jim and Cheryl White have seen the movie McFarland three times and teared up at every viewing, even though, as he says, "We knew what was going to happen."

The film, which stars Kevin Costner as the most successful Californian high school cross-country coach in history, is the story of White, his wife and their life and work in McFarland, Calif., an impoverished town transformed by sports.

The Texas native taught in McFarland for 40 years, establishing a cross-country running team that would win nine state championships and give the runners a glimpse of life outside their small town and nearby fields where many of them worked as migrant "pickers."

His success may have earned him a Hollywood biopic and a more permanent tribute in the form of a dedicated gazebo in the town square, but he sees his influence in more metaphysical terms. "To me, my legacy is in the hearts and minds of these boys I've taught," he says.

In person, White is a humble man who quietly commands respect. At a post-screening Q&A I hosted with him in Toronto, he earned a standing ovation before even saying a word. As the audience clapped he was genuinely moved, and with a quivering voice whispered to me to "take over for a second."

Earlier in the day, we discussed seeing his life played out on the big screen. "We just hoped they could portray our true feelings of love for the town, for the community. That came across real well. We also felt like they portrayed the true hardships these boys went through."

Hollywood did make some changes to White's story and one scene in particular irked him. When we first see White

in the film, he's hurling a cleated shoe at the lippy captain of his Idaho school football team, opening the kid's cheek.

"That is dramatic licence," he says. "It bothered me for a while but I talked to Kevin Costner about it. I said, 'Kevin, can you give me your true feelings about the situation that

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE



Carlos Pratts, left, and Kevin Costner appear in a scene from McFarland. RON PHILLIPS/DISNEY

happened in Idaho?" He said, "I think, Jim, you're going to come across as the hero and not the villain because you're standing up for

what's right.' I said, 'All right, and I was satisfied with that.'

White often uses the phrase "Well, that's Hollywood for you," when describing the making of the film

In Review

Hot Tub Time Machine 2

McFarland

The DUFF

Wrecking Crew

and liberties taken with his life's story. But now the movie is finished, he says, "What was really fascinating to both of us was watching the screen and seeing them say, 'Mr. White would you come in here,' (or) 'Jim White this, and Cheryl White that.' We're sitting there looking at ourselves up there. It was kind of funny."

Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: Certified Fresh: 🍅 Fresh: 🍅 Rotten: 🍌 Audience response: 🍷 Audience anticipation for the film: +

Drama



McFarland

Director. Niki Caro

Stars. Kevin Costner, Carlos Pratt

From Disney comes McFarland, the true against-all-odds story of the 1987 McFarland high school cross-country team in an economically challenged community.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 67% Audience: +87%

Comedy



The DUFF

Director. Ari Sandel

Stars. Mae Whitman, Robbie Amell

Bianca (Mae Whitman) is a content high school senior whose world is shattered when she learns the student body knows her as 'The DUFF' (Designated Ugly Fat Friend) to her prettier, more popular friends. Now, despite the words of caution from her favourite teacher, she puts aside the potential distraction of her crush and enlists Wesley, a slick but charming jock, to help reinvent herself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 88% Audience: +91%

Drama



Two Days, One Night

Director. Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne

Stars. Marion Cotillard

Sandra (Cotillard) has just been released from the hospital to find that she no longer has a job. According to management, the only way Sandra can hope to regain her position at the factory is to convince her co-workers to sacrifice their much-needed yearly bonuses.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 96% Audience: 79%

Comedy



Hot Tub Time Machine 2

Director. Steve Pink

Stars. Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry

Hot Tub Time Machine director Steve Pink returns to the helm for this sequel set 10 years in the future, and starring Rob Corddry, Adam Scott, Clark Duke, and Craig Robinson.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: No reviews yet Audience: +92%

Drama



Escobar: Paradise Lost

Director. Andrea Di Stefano

Stars. Benicio Del Toro, Josh Hutcherson

For Pablo Escobar (Benicio Del Toro), family is everything. When young surfer Nick (Josh Hutcherson) falls for Escobar's niece, he finds his life on the line when he's pulled into the dangerous world of the family business.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 60% Audience: +87%

Drama/Comedy



What We Do In The Shadows

Director. Taika Waititi, Jemaine Clement

Stars. Taika Waititi, Jemaine Clement

What We Do In The Shadows chronicles the adventures of four vampire roommates trying to get by in a modern world that's not always hospitable to the undead. Clement and Waititi, creators of the HBO hit series Flight of the Conchords, co-wrote, co-directed, and co-star.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 92% Audience: +91%

Amell relied on his wits to nab role in The DUFF

Casting. Flash star aced dreaded 'chemistry read' by dropping improv lines on prospective co-star



RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Canadian actor Robbie Amell's latest starring role was all about chemistry. To make sure he had the kind of spark needed to play opposite potential *The DUFF* co-star Mae Whitman, he not only had to audition, he then had to try out again at a "chemistry read."

"They narrowed it down to a few guys," says the youthful looking 27-year-old. "They had signed Mae and they brought

us in one after the other. Before I went in, my best friend Nick, who's very funny, and I sat down and figured out some alternate lines. I thought I'd have a shot at this if I could make her laugh."

Preparation aside, he says for Whitman, fresh off a stint on *Parenthood*, it wasn't love at first sight.

"Mae didn't want to drive in for the chemistry read," he says. "She was already sour and she said she was not excited. I walk in and she said, 'Screw this guy.' But I dropped some really rude improv line on her and she totally busted out laughing. I think that was the turning point."

Then it was a waiting game. "My chemistry read was at 11 on a Friday morning," he says, "which means there is nothing

else I am thinking about for the next couple of days. It slowly started to disappear and it got to a point where I thought, 'If I'm the guy, great. If I'm not the guy, I'm not. I just want to know.'"

Two weeks later he had the part of Wes, the best-looking guy in Bianca's (Whitman) school, who informs her that she is a *DUFF*, the Designated Ugly Fat Friend. He tells her

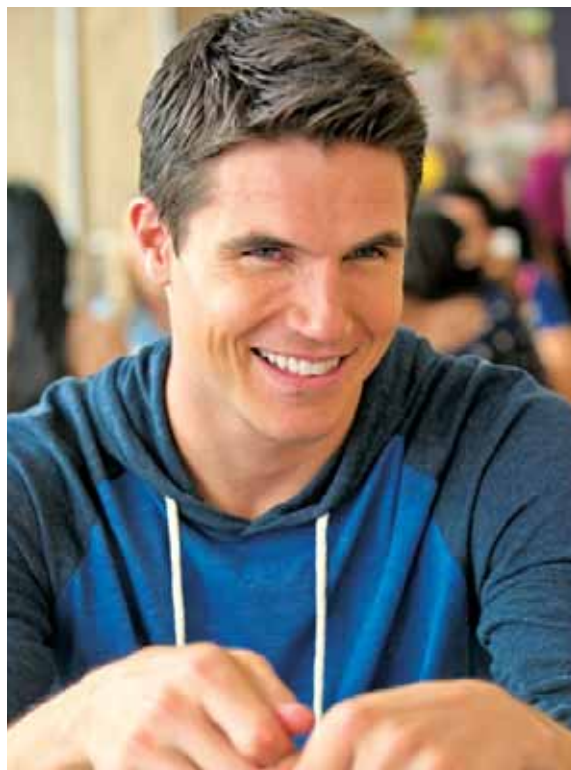
she is the gatekeeper; the approachable one boys befriend to get closer to her prettier friends.

The all-important high school social hierarchy is the backbone of the story. Bianca and Wes are at opposite ends of the ecosystem, but Amell explains, "the movie is about knocking down these labels, embracing what makes you, you."

Amell, who in real life graduated from Toronto's Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute in 2006, says his school experience was very different than the one depicted in the movie.

"I didn't have great skin in high school so that was kind of my *DUFF* moment, but I always joke around that I grew up in Canada and everyone is polite so no one would call anyone the *DUFF*."

"I went to high school not that long ago but not every kid had a camera in their hand. Now everything is so documented you can't get away with anything. It sucks. I don't know if I could be an actor if there were camera phones when I went to high school. Everybody makes mistakes and you should be allowed to make a few without them being documented in HD."



High-school wise guy: Canadian actor Robbie Amell appears in a scene from *The DUFF*. GRANVILLE PICTURES

Social media

Yes, Robbie handles his own tweets

Some things are sacred for *The Flash* star Robbie Amell. Like his tweets. The Toronto-bred actor, who plays Firestorm on the CTV series *The Flash* and co-stars in the upcoming film *The DUFF*, says he got into a Twitter fight earlier this week over

the veracity of his feed.

"Somebody called me out, they were like, 'Oh, man, somebody's running Robbie's Twitter page, this is totally a tweet from some company,'" Amell says during a recent visit to Toronto to promote his big-screen comedy.

"And I hit back immediately. I was like, 'I never do that.' Every single tweet, Instagram and Facebook post comes directly from me unless my account's been hacked." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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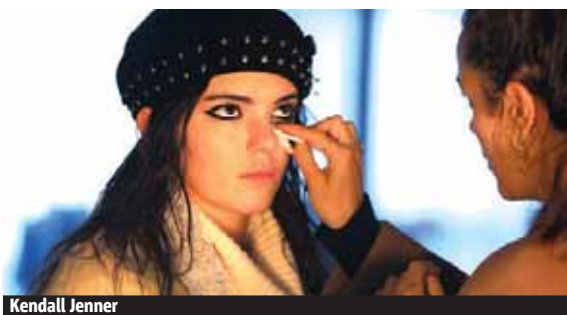
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Uh-oh, those mean girls are after Kendall again



Kendall Jenner

Girls can be so cruel. Kendall Jenner is just trying to make a go of it as a model, working the New York Fashion Week runways for the likes of Marc Jacobs, Alexander Wang and Donna Karen, and the more established models just won't play nice.

Vogue Germany posted a backstage pic of Jenner on its Instagram feed, only to have models Lexi Boling and Binx Walton make

with the snide comments. Boling started off with, "She's never looked better," followed by the old "crying laughter" emoji, to which Walton replied, "That's f---ed up," with the same snarky icon. The comments were quickly deleted, though, and Boling issued an apology, saying, "I wasn't thinking and made a silly comment."

Indeed.

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METRO'S TAKE ON
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Iggy Azalea ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Iggy leaves trolls behind

Congratulations, Internet. You scared off Iggy Azalea. The Australian rapper returned from a little post-Grammys vacation only to be utterly dismayed by the social media reactions to some photos of her on the beach. So dismayed, in fact, that she went on an epic Twitter tirade culminating in her announcing she's taking her Twitter ball and going home because you're all jerks.

"Just got back from a great vacation, came online and saw apparently it's shocking and unheard of to be a woman and have cellulite," she wrote. "I feel the hatred and pettiness I see online at all times is making me become an angry person and I cannot be that. To become nasty because of the way I feel I am treated would be a disservice to my fans and I promise I will try to keep smiling. But I also want to let my fans know I am taking some time away from social media. I need to be happy and it is too negative and draining. My management will tweet/run my accounts from today onwards."

Not quite done, she popped back in a few minutes later to add the rather poetic, "The Internet is the ugliest reflection of mankind there is."

Dang, Iggy.

Hugh really should shut up about ex Liz Hurley

Elizabeth Hurley



Hugh Grant insists he and ex-girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley are on great terms, but that's probably not the case right this moment, as Grant was a little too candid about their breakup in an interview with Andy Cohen. "She's still my best friend. The sex bit probably fizzled out, but now she's my absolute best friend," Grant says. "The number one person I call in a crisis." But probably not this crisis, right?

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Bite into luxury



Appetizers. Escargot and Garlic Stuffed Tomato Tarts are perfect for your glam Academy Awards party



RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

Hosting an Academy Awards screening party? Save the chips and dip for a less grandiose event. This super-chic soiree needs a healthy dose of luxe! Think escargot and, of course, plenty of bubbly.

When making these appetizers, make sure you prick the dough thoroughly, because the tomatoes can easily fall on the side while baking.

Simply place them back when arranging them on a serving platter.

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to about 1/8 inch (3 mm) thick. With a 1 3/4-inch (4.5 cm) round cookie cutter, make enough circles to match your quantity of snails. With a fork, prick the centre of the dough several times. Place on the baking sheet and

refrigerate.

3. Cut off the tomato caps, then cut off a thin slice at the base so they stand in place. Remove the flesh with a small melon baller. Set aside.

4. In a skillet, melt the butter with the garlic. Add the snails and cook for about 1 minute while stirring. Add the chives. Season with pepper. Stuff each tomato with a snail. Set aside.

5. In a bowl, combine sour cream and mustard. Brush over each circle of dough. Top with stuffed tomatoes. Drizzle with remaining garlic butter. Bake until golden brown, 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve warm.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Ingredients

- 1/2 lb (225 g) thawed and cold puff pastry
- 24 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup (57 g) butter
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 can (200 g) snails, rinsed and drained (about 24 snails)
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh chives or thyme leaves
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sour cream
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) Dijon mustard

Liquid Assets

Tomato-wine challenge



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Though it may be one of the most popular fruits in the world (and yes, technically it is a fruit) the affable tomato can be, in a word, challenging when it comes to a wine match.

When I first read Chef Ricardo's recipe for escargot and garlic stuffed tomato tarts, I couldn't help but feel a bit like Indiana Jones when he realized the temple was full of snakes in Raiders of the Lost Ark.

To paraphrase: Tomatoes. Why did it have to be tomatoes?

Not that they're impossible to partner with wine. It's just that their forward acidity and ripe, fruity juiciness can be an off-putting counterpoint to the vivacious personalities of many wines.

A foodie friend of mine adores a Sauvignon Blanc-based white with tomatoes. I lean towards an acid-forward red like an Italian Sangiovese. While Italy's Chianti region in Tuscany is considered Sangiovese's true home, Farnese's 2013 Fantini Sangiovese IGT (\$7.95 to \$10.49), made in Abruzzo, is as soft on the palate as it is on the pocket-book. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

3

THE

This recipe makes approximately 24 appetizers. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

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Books stack up quite nicely as decor

Turn over a new leaf.
Use books as decoration,
art or even as furniture

Some people love the look of a bookshelf stuffed with books, and what that represents. Others see books as clutter, and wonder why anyone owns them in the digital era.

But the “well-chosen book,” or an artfully displayed stack of books, “can be as powerful as any other design element,” said Pablo Solomon, an artist and designer from Lampasas, Texas, near Austin. Books not only create a mood, they make a personal statement, he added.

And even when books are used primarily for esthetic effect rather than to show off a collection, the very act of displaying them celebrates them, according to Meredith Wing.

“Repurposing books honours them,” said Wing, a third-year architecture student at Columbia University who has her own company, Meredith Wing Design.

Because many readers consume literature digitally these days, physical books also evoke nostalgia — not unlike displays of other authentic objects that originated in earlier eras, like wagon wheels or washboards. “These are the things we now kind of worship,” Wing said.

Bring the drama

But on a practical level, books offer a “relatively inexpensive way to decorate on a large scale,” Wing said. She’s

bought books by the foot, covered them in white paper and created a “minimalist library wall.” She’s stacked them in non-functioning fireplaces and used them as pedestals for photos. And she’s removed dust covers to reveal book spine colours “for dramatic effect.”

In Tulsa, Okla., The Tavern restaurant stacked books along a room divider between the dining area and bar in a coloured geometric pattern. The pattern echoed the art deco architecture Tulsa is famous for.

Get horizontal

And it’s a technique that’s easily adapted in home decor: Instead of lining books up vertically, break them up with horizontal stacks. You can arrange them by size and colour, or keep them organized by topic. But use some of the horizontal stacks to display “accessories, photos or travel knick-knacks,” advised Liz Toombs, an interior decorator.

Buy books by the bin

Meridith Baer buys old books by the bin for her work at Meridith Baer Home, a home-staging company. She covers the books individually in solid-colour butcher or craft paper — or sometimes even old architectural house-plans — then arranges them in various ways. If there’s an art book she loves, “I leave it on the coffee table open to that page.”

Solomon, the Texas designer, also likes displaying individual art books. “We have every art book that ever

was,” said Solomon. “My wife will pick her favourite artist of the month, put that book out on display, create a dinner and have friends over for Picasso night.”

Do judge a book by its cover

And don’t be afraid to judge a book by its cover. “Book covers are some of the best art ever done,” said Solomon. You can even digitally scan a book cover and have it printed in a variety of materials — aluminum or canvas for example — in any size to hang on a wall.

Ron Marvin, a New York-based interior designer, uses stacks of books to create “little moments.”

“I’ll stack four or five books on a cocktail table and put a vase on top,” he said. “I have an antique chair I didn’t want anybody sitting in. I put a stack of books in the chair and on top of that a glass bowl and it looks like a little sculpture. It’s a moment. But it also says, ‘Please don’t sit here.’”

In his office, he stacks his collection of design books horizontally by colour and size, largest to smallest, creating little pyramids.

Stack ‘em as side tables

On Pinterest and other sites, you can find photos of furniture made from books — including a much-posted picture of a bed that doesn’t look very comfortable (imagine sleeping on a mattress of books!). But Marvin has made more practical furniture from stacks of books, including a nightstand next to a bed and a side table next to a low chair.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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NBL Canada

Rainmen roll to 7th straight win

The Halifax Rainmen rolled to their seventh straight victory Thursday night — just barely.

Guard Forrest Fisher led Halifax with 18 points, including 12 from beyond the arc, in the 110-107 win over the Island Storm, while on the road in Charlottetown.

Seiya Ando contributed 17 points to the scoreboard, while Liam McMorrow added 15 of his own, along with seven rebounds.

Nick Okorie pitched in 27 points for the Storm.

The Rainmen, second in the NBL Canada's Atlantic Division, look to make it eight straight when they return home Friday to take on the Mississauga Power. Tipoff is 7 p.m. at the Scotiabank Centre. **METRO**

AUS hockey

Axemen ties series with Huskies

The Saint Mary's Huskies fell 4-3 to the Acadia Axemen in the second game of a best-of-five semifinal series Thursday night in Wolfville.

The Huskies got it started on a goal from Bradley Greene in the first, but a penalty shot allowed the Axemen's Brett Thompson to tie it up before the period was done.

Matt Tipoff scored for Saint Mary's in the second and Stephen Gillard added one in the third, but that wasn't enough to stop the Axemen from earning their first series win.

Saint Mary's claimed the opener, 3-2 in double overtime. The Huskies will host Game 3, set for 7 p.m. Sunday in Halifax. **METRO**

'Mental mistakes' costly for the Herd

QMJHL. Shootout loss to Tigres comes two days after OT setback against Wildcats



KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

It only took 12 seconds for the Halifax Mooseheads to score their first goal Thursday night at the Scotiabank Centre.

But their strong start turned into a disappointing finish, with "mental mistakes" leading to a 4-3 shootout loss to the Victoriaville Tigres, according to Herd head coach Dominique Ducharme.

"It's a long year," Ducharme said following his team's second straight loss, this time to the 13th-place team in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

The Mooseheads also fell 3-2 in overtime to the first-place Moncton Wildcats on the road Tuesday night. The Herd remains in ninth place overall.

Forcing the game past regulation at least means the Moose earn another point in the standings, Ducharme said. "If we get points in every game we play, we'll be in a pretty good position."

It was Timo Meier sniping the puck into the net off the opening faceoff, an unassisted marker that gave the 6,315 fans who braved the snow to see the game live every reason to get pumped up for what was still to come.

But Halifax penalties re-



Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Cavan Fitzgerald, right, and Victoriaville Tigres forward Angelo Miceli battle for the puck on Thursday night at the Scotiabank Centre. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

On Thursday

4

Tigres

3

Mooseheads

- The Mooseheads are on the road Saturday night to face off against the 10th-place Charlotte-town Islanders.

sulted in two straight Victoriaville goals, including a 5-on-3 power play, with Angelo Miceli and Charles-Eric Legare stealing the lead just over seven minutes into the first.

Meier scored his second, on an assist from linemate Nikolaj Ehlers, to tie it up at 10:47 in the period, ensuring the continuation of point-scoring streak for both import forwards.

But on-ice action continued to swing in favour of the Tigres.

"Penalties first gave them two goals, and also killed our momentum," Ducharme said.

Ehlers added another help-er on a second-period power

play, feeding defenceman Cavan Fitzgerald, who faked before letting off a low shot that hit the post and went in to give Halifax a short-lived 3-2 lead.

Pascal Leberge tied it up for the Tigres and after a fruitless overtime period, Miceli and Samuel Blais both scored in the shootout for Victoriaville.

Fitzgerald agreed the Moose failed to build on Meier's early goals as the game unfolded.

"We definitely need all our forwards and D to really crack down on our defensive zone," he said after the game. "We had a lot of breakdowns."

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Penguins done in by Dubinsky's dekes and dukes

NHL. Latest loss leaves Pittsburgh fourth in Metropolitan Division

Brandon Dubinsky poked a pass from Matt Calvert past a sprawled Marc-Andre Fleury with 2:17 remaining to lift the Columbus Blue Jackets to a 2-1 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday night.

Pittsburgh's Blake Comeau turned it over and the Blue Jackets quickly pounced. Calvert fed Dubinsky as Pittsburgh's Steve Downie ran over Fleury. Dubinsky had little trouble tapping in his seventh goal of the season.

Scott Hartnell also scored for Columbus. Curtis McElhinney stopped 29 shots as the Blue Jackets won their second straight.

On Thursday

2

Blue Jackets

1

Penguins

- Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby was held without a point, though he tussled with Brandon Dubinsky in the second period. It was the seventh fight of Crosby's 10-year career.

Evgeni Malkin picked up his 22nd goal for Pittsburgh. Fleury was brilliant at times while making 28 saves, but couldn't stop the Penguins from losing for the fourth time in their last six games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Penguins captain Sidney Crosby and Columbus' Brandon Dubinsky fight in the second period on Thursday night in Pittsburgh. KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Clouter gets N.S.'s first medal, a bronze

Stephen Clouter of Lawrencetown shows off the bronze medal he won in men's artistic gymnastics high bar on Thursday at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George, B.C. Clouter, 18, finished with a score of 13.30, which was .05 ahead of the fourth-place finisher, Samuel Adam Zakutney of Ottawa. It was Nova Scotia's first medal at the games. LEN WAGG/COMMUNICATIONS NOVA SCOTIA

Scotties. Jones, Sweeting to meet twice

Manitoba's Jennifer Jones strengthened her grip on second place at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Thursday with a 10-3 rout of Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt and a 6-3 win over Northern Ontario's Tracy Horgan.

Jones improved to 9-1 and trailed only Val Sweeting of Alberta in the round-robin standings.

Sweeting scored two in the last end for a dramatic 7-6 victory over Canada's Rachel Homan in the afternoon draw before a stunning 9-1 loss to Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton in the evening draw in Moose Jaw, Sask.

But the afternoon victory in the rematch of last year's



Jennifer Jones won both of her matches on Thursday to improve to 9-1 at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scotties final gives Sweeting a berth in the one-two Page Playoff game Friday night against Jones.

"We just have to stay strong now," Sweeting said. "Momentum is good going into the playoffs. We just want to finish

strong and hopefully just come out on top."

Sweeting and Jones will play twice on Friday. They'll meet in the round-robin finale in the morning, with the winner to earn the first seed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors

Chemistry keeps GM Ujiri inactive

Toronto Raptors GM Masai Ujiri made no deals at Thursday's NBA trade deadline in a "huge vote of confidence" for the players he has.

"Vote of confidence to our players, to our team, to coach (Dwane Casey), keep plugging away," Ujiri said. "We've made a commitment, trying to give this group a chance."

Ujiri fielded calls but he wasn't close to making a deal, he said. The Raptors are 36-17 and second in the Eastern Conference, and Ujiri likes the makeup of his team. Keeping it intact, he said, was a nod to the chemistry the Raptors have.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Faces changing places

A flurry of trades were made before the 3 p.m. EST deadline Thursday. The following are just some of the reported players that were dealt.

- Goran Dragic and Isaiah Thomas, were among five players traded by the Suns in a major overhaul at the deadline.



Goran Dragic
GETTY IMAGES

- Kevin Garnett also has a new address — his original NBA one. The Timberwolves brought him back to Minnesota by sending Thaddeus Young to Brooklyn.



Kevin Garnett
GETTY IMAGES

- The Oklahoma City Thunder traded Reggie Jackson to the Detroit Pistons and acquired Enes Kanter from the Utah Jazz.



Reggie Jackson
GETTY IMAGES

- Arron Afflalo's second stint in Denver came to an end Thursday, with the veteran guard going to the Portland Trail Blazers in a five-player deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Arron Afflalo
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Harvey captures silver in cross-country sprint

Nordic skiing.

Quebecer edged in photo finish by Norway's Northug

Canada's Alex Harvey won the silver medal in the men's cross-country sprint Thursday at the Nordic skiing world championships.

Harvey was edged by Petter Northug in a photo finish when the Norwegian stretched out his ski to win gold.

It was Northug's 10th career world title but first in an individual sprint. He had a gap on Harvey entering the final stretch of the classical-style race but Harvey, who is from St-Ferreal-les-Neiges, Que., had the stronger finish over the last 50 metres, forcing the Norwe-



The silver medal Alex Harvey won on Thursday was his fifth medal on the Falun, Sweden, course. JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

gian to lunge forward at the line to hold off his rival.

Harvey won his fifth medal on the Falun course, where he earned his first career World Cup victory three years ago.

"I just love racing in Falun," said Harvey, who also won a silver at the Tour de Ski last week. "The course is so hard and it requires sustained work, and I just enjoy racing here. I'm

Quoted

"I was there with him in the end, and just couldn't get around him ... I am happy with the silver today and really looking forward to the rest of the week."

Alex Harvey

really excited. It was a great day for me and our entire team."

Olympic champion Ola Vigen Hattestad of Norway took bronze after beating Nikita Kriukov of Russia in a similar photo finish.

Len Valjas of Toronto had a solid race with a 14th-place finish, while Jesse Cockney, of Canmore, Alta., was 49th.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Victim of racist soccer fans wants group punished

A black man who was blocked from boarding a Paris Metro train by Chelsea soccer fans chanting racist slogans wants the group to be "found, punished and locked up."

In an interview with Le Parisien newspaper, the man — identified only as Souleymane S. — said he had lost his phone in the scuffle in the metro and didn't learn until Wednesday evening that the altercation was filmed. Because he doesn't speak English, he said he didn't fully grasp what the rowdy group was saying — they chanted "we're racist, we're racist, and that's the way we like it" — but their meaning was clear. The incident happened Tuesday evening, before Chelsea played Paris Saint-Germain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

Messi, Barcelona back on track

Lionel Messi says both he and his Barcelona teammates have learned from mistakes that left them without a major title for the first time in six seasons last year.

Messi admitted Thursday that "last year wasn't a good year for me. I had many problems on and off the pitch. And I want to reverse that situation."

Messi has scored 37 goals in 33 games this season, including 14 to fuel an 11-game winning streak since January.

"The change in the team's attitude is very noticeable. We are in a very good dynamic now," he said.

Barcelona is within one point of Spanish league leader Real Madrid and visits Manchester City in the first leg of their Champions League round-of-16 tie next week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Metro News app for today's
crossword and Sudoku answers.**
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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

As your ruler Mars moves into your sign today you will be in an assertive mood. Just be careful not to get too domineering for some people's tastes.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you can't get what you want over the next 24 hours you will get the chance to make up for it tomorrow. The only thing you have to fear is fear itself.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You are so enthusiastic about something that you cannot understand why some people are being so negative about it. Maybe they have looked at the situation in a balanced way.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You could easily lose patience with someone on the work front today, but hold back from saying anything too negative. They could make things tough for you later.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You are in a helpful mood at the moment, but don't be too helpful. Do you want to end up doing so much for others that you have no time to do anything for yourself?

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

A financial opportunity is worth pursuing but the planets warn it may not be as great as you've been led to believe. There will be a lot of work involved.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

As Venus, planet of love, moves into the relationship area of your chart today it's likely you will meet someone who gets your pulse racing. Don't get carried away — yet.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Certain chores may be tiresome but there is no way you can get out of them so you might as well do the best possible job.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't make any travel plans for today or tomorrow because there is something special coming your way and if you move you may miss it.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Mars in the domestic sector of your chart is likely to spark family squabbles but they are really not that important. Also, with Venus working in your favour you can calm things down. Be the voice of reason.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Social activities will be fun over the next few days but there will be challenges too. Someone you meet could rub you the wrong way over something trivial but it's really no big deal.

♓ Pisces

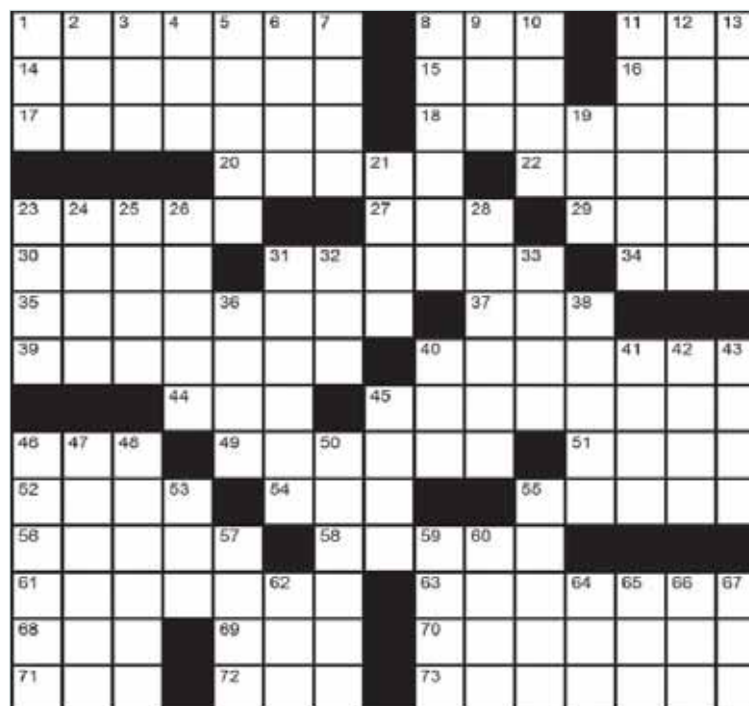
Feb. 20 - March 20

You may lose your cool about something that normally would not bother you. If you do, calm down and have the good grace to admit you went over the top.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Oscars 2015: Dean __, Canadian director (with Bonnie Arnold) who is up for an Oscar for #50-Down at this weekend's ceremonies
8. __ for the cameras
11. Drink delicately
14. Ferocious fire
15. Fit Fiddle link: 2 wds.
16. __ 'easter
17. Conquers
18. TV Western on which #11-Down's director Clint Eastwood starred
20. Prefix to 'comedy'
22. Military caps
23. Domicile
27. Movie studio area
29. Quebec singer Mr. Simard
30. Uncommon
31. Health resort amenities
34. Soak flax
35. Keep from happening
37. New Zealand parrot
39. Take off with the cash
40. Super salty splashy spot: 2 wds.
44. "Won-der-ful!"
45. Oscars 2015: As per #1-Across and #70-Across... __
- Feature Film
46. Inquire
49. 1971 Elton John



- album: ' __ Across the Water'
51. Ski __
 52. Red veggie
 54. Three, in Italy
 55. Exits-not
 56. Country singer Mr. Jackson's
 58. Mr. Agassi
 61. Locale
 63. Backslide

68. Rock producer Brian
69. Philosopher, __-tzu
70. Oscars 2015: As the co-director of "The Boxtrolls" (2014), Canadian cartoonist Graham __ is up for an Oscar in the category at

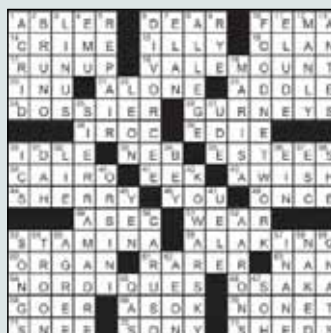
- #45-Across
71. __ Antonio
 72. Barbie's boyfriend
 73. Adieu!

Down

1. Fared
2. Mariner's dir.
3. Texter's pal
4. Liberace's nickname
5. Pontificate
6. Book's foreword [abbr.]
7. Baseball's Sammy
8. Oscars 2015: Best Actress nominee Ms. Cotillard
9. Can. neighbour
10. Look bewilderedly
11. Oscars 2015: Best Picture nominee,

- "American __" (2014)
12. Antiseptic
 13. Adjust ahead of time
 19. HRH part
 21. Paste
 23. Italian harp
 24. Dig
 25. Finds in mines
 26. Record label
 28. Absorb the knowledge: 2 wds.
 31. Tropical vacation headgear
 32. Supplement
 33. Crease
 36. Some soil
 38. Go with the flow
 40. CSI evidence
 41. Athena's walkway
 42. Like a Conger
 43. Tangy quaffs
 45. "Farewell, Father!"
 46. Puts down
 47. Ms. Gomez
 48. Oscars 2015: Best Actor nominee, Michael __
 50. Oscars 2015: "How To Train Your __ 2" (2014)
 53. Blasting letters
 55. Repetition mark, in music
 57. Fancy fabric
 59. Downer
 60. Gambling mecca
 62. Dundee denial
 64. "Totally awesome"
 65. Sort of tide
 66. Knavish
 67. Envision

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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CITY: 9.7L/100 KM*



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Crash Safety
Rating*

HWY: 9.8L/100 KM
CITY: 12.9L/100 KM*



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HWY: 9.3L/100 KM
CITY: 11.6L/100 KM*



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